

VZCZCXYZ0007
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHRL #0656 1401553
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 191553Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1247
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS BERLIN 000656

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [NATO](#) [GM](#)
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS VETTING FOR GERMAN MILITARY UNITS

REF: E-MAIL FROM LTC KRISTINE GOULD HQ USSOCOM TO
EMBASSY BERLIN DAO 27 MARCH 2008

¶1. (U) THIS CABLE RESPONDS TO REF E-MAIL REQUEST TO CONDUCT HUMAN RIGHTS VETTING, AS REQUIRED BY THE LEAHY AMENDMENT, OF TWO GERMAN MILITARY UNITS THAT PLAN TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES (ISOF) WEEK TRAINING IN TAMPA, FLORIDA, 19-23 MAY 2008.

¶2. (U) AMEMBASSY BERLIN POSSESSES NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GERMAN KOMMANDO SPEZIALKRAFTE (KSK) OR GERMAN SEALS AS MID-MAY 2008.

¶3. (U) WHILE THERE IS NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE KSK, POST NOTES THAT THE KSK HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF COMMITTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN JANUARY 2002 AGAINST GERMAN-BORN TURKISH CITIZEN MURAT KURNAZ AT A U.S. PRISON CAMP LOCATED OUTSIDE OF KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN. THE CASE HAS BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY, A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE, AND GERMAN PROSECUTORS. ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, KURNAZ HAS ALLEGED THAT TWO KSK MEMBERS GRABBED HIS HAIR AND SMASHED HIS HEAD AGAINST THE FLOOR DURING HIS INTERROGATION AT THE U.S. CAMP IN KANDAHAR. KURNAZ IDENTIFIED TWO KSK MEMBERS WHO WERE STATIONED IN KANDAHAR AT THE TIME, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF INFLECTING "GRIEVOUS BODILY HARM WHILE ON DUTY," ACCORDING TO GERMAN PROSECUTORS. KURNAZ LATER SERVED FOUR YEARS AT THE GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION FACILITY BEFORE BEING RELEASED IN AUGUST 2006.

¶4. (U) EMBASSY BERLIN POCS ARE POL/MIL-EXTERNAL MICHAEL CHRISTIE AND OFFICE MANAGER NADIA COVINGTON, (49) (30) 8305-2222 AND (49) (30) 8305-2230. CLASSIFIED EMAILS: CHRISTIEMD@STATE.SGOV.GOV AND COVINGTONNT@STATE.SGOV.GOV RESPECTIVELY.
TIMKEN JR